

c. Amendments to Claims

18. (Currently amended) A manufacture, comprising:

a preform having a central core, a cladding layer, and an overcladding layer; the core, cladding layer, and overcladding layer each comprising silica-glass, ~~the preform having an OD variation of 10^{-1} percent or less at one longitudinal position; and~~
wherein an inner diameter of the overcladding layer varies by less than 1 percent over a length of the preform.

19. (Original) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein the length and outer diameter of the preform are at least as great as 1200 mm and 90 mm, respectively.

20. (Original) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein the overcladding layer has less than 2 parts per million of hydroxide impurities.

21. (Original) The manufacture of claim 20, wherein the overcladding layer has less than .2 parts per million of hydroxide impurities.

22. (Original) The manufacture of claim 19, wherein the preform has an OD variation of 5×10^{-2} percent or less at one longitudinal position.

23. (Canceled)

24. (New) The manufacture of claim 18, wherein, a maximum OD minus a minimum OD at a longitudinal position on the preform is equal to or smaller than 30 microns.